

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-40 were pending in the application. The Examiner allowed claims 11-12, 13/11, 17-20, 31-32, 33/31, 37-38, and 40. The Examiner also found Claims 4-9 and 24-29 allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 10, 13/1, 14-15, 21-23, 30, 33/21, 34-36 and 39 as obvious in view of Schmidt et al (US 5,952,066). In the present amendment, Claims 4 and 24 are canceled and limitations from those claims have been incorporated in Claims 1 and 21 respectively. Thus, Claims 1 and 21 and all the claims that depend there from are now in a condition for allowance. While Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Schmidt et al (US 5,952,066), the amendment to Claims 1 and 21 are being made without prejudice to expedite prosecution of the present application and progress the allowed claims to issuance. Applicants do not intend to abandon their right to the subject matter contained in the rejected claims and reserve the right to file a continuation application directed thereto. Thus, Applicants respectively request a Notice of Allowance with respect to Claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-23 and 25-40.

If the Examiner believes an oral or telephonic interview would advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,


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